

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 11-13 and 17 are pending in this application. Claims 10-17 stand rejected. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 1, 4, and 6. By this Amendment, claims 11-13 and 17 have been amended and claims 10 and 14-16 have been canceled without prejudice. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Costello. Applicants have canceled claim 10 rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 14 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,314,070 ("Ciarlei"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have cancelled claims 14 and 16 and claim 17 now depends from allowable claim 1 thereby rendering this rejection moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Costello in view of Ciarlei. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claims 11 and 12 to depend from allowable claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 13 also now depends from allowable claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY
LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 835-1400
Attorneys for Applicant

IRB/mgs